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Exploring Islamic Ideals in Hindu Religious Texts

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ABSTRACT

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Hindus are the third largest religious group after Christians and Muslims and more ancient than both. Therefore there is a strong possibility that some messengers of Allah must have been raised in this nation also. Though, Hindus do not acclaim any messenger by name but they believe that Vedas are revealed books and divine texts; moreover, many messengers are discussed in their books, like Abraham, Noah, Jesus and Muhammad (peace be upon them all) etc. Using classical books of Hinduism and the works of some contemporary Hindu scholars, in this paper, an attempt has been made to discuss, what Hindu religious texts avow about Islam. The study is based on the Qura'nic verse which states that 'Allah assuredly sent amongst every nation an apostle' (Qur'an 16: 36). This paper investigates who was the Prophet of Hindus, and in addition, it provides a concise survey of the prophecies of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) in Hindu scriptures. It also highlights the similarities between the two Islam and Hinduism.

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1. Introduction

The Holy Qur'an testifies that Allah sent his messengers to every Nation in different periods:

"And there never were a people without a Warner having lived among them (in the past)". (Qur'an 35: 24)¹ In other place it says, "for We assuredly sent amongst every nation an apostle". (Qur'an 16: 36)¹

From the above verses, it is evident that, in every nation of humankind Allah sent his messengers. Some of the names of these messengers and nations are mentioned in the Holy Qur'an such as Adam, Noah, Ibraheem (Abraham), Musa (Moses), Isa (Jesus) (peace be upon them) etc and nations like A'ad, Thamud, Saba, Kaum-e-lut, Muslims, Jews, Christians, Saibeen etc. Hindus are the third largest religious group after Christians and Muslims and more ancient than both. According to above verses, there is a strong possibility that some messengers of Allah must have been raised in this

¹ All translations of the Holy Qur'an are taken from Abdullah Yusuf Ali (2006) *The Meaning of Holy Qur'an*, 11th Ed, Maryland USA: Amana Publications.

nation also. Though, Hindus do not acclaim any messenger by name but they believe that Vedas are revealed books and divine texts; moreover, many messengers are discussed in their books, like Abraham, Noah, Jesus and Muhammad (peace be upon them) etc.

Using classical books of Hinduism and the works of some contemporary Hindu scholars, an attempt has been made in this essay to discuss Hinduism in Islamic perspective. The study is based on the assumption that Allah assuredly sent amongst every nation an apostle. Qur'an (16: 36) Therefore we tried to explore who was the Prophet of Hindus. In addition the paper will provide a concise survey of the prophecies of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) ² in Hindu scriptures. It will also highlight the similarities between the two faiths. However, before further proceeding, it seems appropriate to discuss briefly, Hinduism and its major scriptures.

2. Hinduism

Hinduism is the predominant [religion](#) of [South Asia](#). (Guénon, 1921, 74-78) This religion does not have a single founder, a specific theological system, a single system of morality, or a central religious organization. (Osborne, 2005, 9) However, Hinduism is the amalgamation of thousands of different religious groups that have evolved in India since 1500 BC. This is the reason why Hinduism is regarded as the oldest organized religion of the world. Demographically, Hinduism is the [world's third largest religion](#), after [Christianity](#) and [Islam](#), with more than a billion adherents, of whom approximately 1 billion, live in [India](#). Other [significant populations](#) are found in [Nepal](#) (23 million), [Bangladesh](#) (14 million) and the [Indonesian](#) island of [Bali](#) (3.3 million).

2.1 Etymology

The actual name of Hindu religion is not Hinduism. The word *Hindu* is a geographical term, used by the Persians to refer people who live beyond the river *Sindhu* (Indus). (Naik, 2007, 13) The river *Sindhu* is also mentioned in the Rig-Ved. (Naik, 2007, 25) The usage of the word *Hindu* was further popularized by the Arabic term *Hindi*, the people who live across river Indus (Thapar, 1993, 77). By the 13th century, *Hindustan* (India) emerged as a popular alternative name of India, meaning the "land of Hindus". (Platts, 1884, Dictionary) Originally, *Hindu* was a secular term which was used to describe all inhabitants of the Indian subcontinent (or *Hindustan*) irrespective of their religious affiliations. Jawaharlal Nehru, in his book '*Discovery of India*', writes that the earliest reference to the word 'Hindu' can be traced to a tantric of the 8th century C.E., where it means the people and not a follower of a particular religion. The use of the word 'Hindu' in connection with a particular religion is of late occurrence. (Nehru, 2000, 74-75) It occurs sporadically in some 16th-18th century *Bengali Gaudiya*, *Vaishnava* texts, including *Chaitanya Bhagavata* and *Charitamrita*, usually to contrast Hindus with *Yavanas* or *Mlecchas*. (O'Connell, 1973, 340-344)

It appears in South Indian and Kashmiri texts from at least 1323 CE, (Lorenzen, 2006, 24-33) and increasingly so during the British rule. It was only towards the end of the 18th century that the European merchants and colonists referred collectively to the followers of Indian religions as *Hindus*. Eventually, it came to define a precisely religious identity of Indian population, excluding Muslims, Christians, Jews and Buddhists, thereby encompassing a wide range of religious beliefs and practices related to Indians. (Flood, 2001) The term *Hinduism* was soon appropriated by the Hindus in India themselves as they tried to establish a national, social and cultural identity opposed to European colonialism in India. (Flood, 2001) Now, it is a matter of question, what was the real name of Hindu religion. According to Hindu religious scriptures, the real name of Hinduism is *Sanatana Dharma*. The word *dharma sanatana* occurs in classical [Sanskrit literature](#), e.g. in the [Manusmrti](#):

Satyam bruyatpriyam bruyanna bruyatsatyamapriyam. Priyam cha nanrtam bruyadesa dharmah sanatana. ([Manusmrti](#): 4-138)

(Translation: "Speak the truth; speak the truth that is pleasant. Do not speak the truth to manipulate. Do not speak falsely to please or flatter someone. This is the quality of the eternal [dharma](#)")

And in the [Bhagavata Purana](#):

At the end of each cycle of four *Yugas* (*Satyug, Treta, Dwapar and Kalyug*), the *Rishis*², through their asceticism, saw the collections of *srutis* swallowed up by time, after which the eternal *dharma* (was re-established).

The [Sanskrit](#) term *Sanatana Dharma*, is *Sanatana+ Dharma*. *Sanatana* is *continuous from beginning to end*, and *Dharma* is religion or Deen. So, *Sanatana Dharma* is *the religion which is continuous from beginning to end*. Its correspondent word in Qur'an is "*Dinul Qayyimah*". Qur'an (98:5). According to Qur'an, Islam is not a new religion founded by Prophet Muhammad ^(S.A.W), but it is a religion started with *Adam* and will continue until end. All Holy Messengers (peace be upon them) revived the same religion in different times with new revealed books and Muhammad ^(S.A.W) is the last among them. Therefore, we can say, *Sanatana Dharma* is the old version of Islam.

3. The Vedas

Vedas are the oldest books of [Sanskrit literature](#) ([Radhakrishnan](#), 1957, 3) and the most sacred texts of [Hinduism](#). ([Radhakrishnan](#), 1957, 3) According to Vedic tradition, the Vedas are *apauruṣeya* (not human composition), being supposed to have been directly revealed, and thus are called *sruti* ("what is heard"). Though Vedic [mantras](#) are recited at Hindu prayers, religious functions and other auspicious occasions but a very few people of higher caste Hindus are authorized to read and write Vedas.

Although they command highest respect among all Hindu religious scriptures, yet they have a very little contribution in day-to-day life of Hindus. The overall use of Vedas is, only some of their *Shlokas* (verses) were recited in the rituals and ceremonies like marriage, funeral, etc. Common Hindus are not allowed to read, write or even to touch Vedas. They are only occasionally allowed to see the Vedas. This ritual is termed as *Ved Darshan* (sacred glimpse on Vedas). The [Vedas](#) are four in number. The *Rig-Ved*, [Yajurved](#), *Samved* and [Atharvaved](#), represent various *shakhas*, or branches, of knowledge. Depending on the branch, different commentaries and instructions are associated with each Ved.

1. The *Rig-Ved* contains hymns ([mantras](#)) that formulate the mythology of ancient Vedic practice.
2. The *Samved* consists mostly of mantras from the [Rig-Ved](#), but they are arranged in an order specifically suited to the [Soma](#) sacrifice;
3. The *Yajurved* contains detailed prose instructions for the sacrifices; and
4. The *Atharvaved* comprises semi-magical spells against enemies, sorcerers, diseases and mistakes made during the sacrificial ritual, as well as kingly duties and some deeper spiritual truths. (Nikhilananda, 1990, 142)

Each of the four Vedas is divided into two sections:

1. The [Mantra](#) portion, also called the *Samhita*, is a collection of hymns to be used in Vedic sacrifices.
2. The *Brahmanas* portion (not to be confused with [Brahman](#), or the [brahmin](#) caste), contains specific rules and regulations for the sacrifices as well as prose commentaries explaining the meaning of the mantras and rituals. (Nikhilananda, 1990, 142)

4. The Upanishads

The Upanishads [Sittings near (a teacher)] are part of the Hindu Shruti; these religious scriptures primarily discuss philosophy and "cosmic reality"; they also contain transcripts of various debates or discussions. There are 220 books enlisted as Upanishads; however, only 13 are accepted by all Hindus as primary. They are commentaries on the Vedas and their branch of Hinduism is called

² *Rishi*: A Hindu Saint

Vednta. The Upanishads are acknowledged by scholars and philosophers from both East and West, from [Schrodinger](#), [Thoreau](#) and [Emerson](#) to [Rabindranath Tagore](#), [Mahatma Gandhi](#) and [Aurobindo Ghosh](#), to be superlatively beautiful in poetry and rich in philosophy.

Post-Vedic Hindu scriptures

The new books that appeared afterwards are called *Smriti*. *Smriti* literature includes *Itihasas* (epics like [Ramayana](#), [Mahabharata](#)), [Puranas](#) (mythological texts), [Agamas](#) (theological treatises) and [Darshanas](#) (philosophical texts), *Bhagwad Geeta*, etc.

5. The Bhagavad Gita

The Hindus consider many ancient texts to be divinely written, but among them the *Bhagavad Gita* is considered the most essential and universally accepted. *Bhagavad Gita* literally means "the song of God". It was spoken by Lord *Krishna*, on the battlefield of *Kurukshetra* to His devotee *Arjuna*. Many followers of the Vedic religion or *Sanatan Dharma* are of the opinion that the most succinct and powerful abbreviation of the overwhelmingly diverse realm of Vedic thought is to be found in the [Bhagavad Gita](#) (also known simply "The *Gita*"). [Bhagavad Gita](#) is considered as revered scripture by almost all Hindus today.

6. The Puranas

The *Puranas* are a vast literature of stories and allegory. Eighteen of them are considered *Mahapuranas* (Great Puranas), and thus authoritative references to Gods and Goddesses, religious rites and holy places.

Note: It is quite amazing that all these books, which we will discuss in this research paper, are several years older than Qur'an and Muhammad ^(S.A.W) according to Hindu beliefs.

7. Who was the Prophet of Hinduism?

Though Hindus do not acclaim any Prophet by name but they believe, Vedas are revealed scriptures. However, modern researches reveal that Prophet Noah was their Prophet. We are giving some evidences in favour:

1. According to Hindus, Vedas were revealed to some *Rishis* (a Hindu saint) and *Rishikas* (female *Rishi*) of ancient time. It is not appropriate according to the trend of other revealed scriptures. If we would assume that Vedas are revealed scriptures, then there must be a Prophet to whom these books were revealed. Because all revealed books were revealed to messenger like *Zaboor* revealed to *Dawood* (David) (pbuh), *Toarah* on *Musa* (Moses) (pbuh), Bible to *Isa* (Jesus) (pbuh) and Qur'an on Prophet Muhammad ^(S.A.W). None of these books revealed to more than one person. Most probably they (Hindus) forget their Prophet in the excess of mythologies in later ages and attributed Vedas to *Rishis* and *Rishikas*.
2. Narrated Abu Said: Allah's apostle ^(S.A.W) said, "Noah and his nation will come (on the Day of Resurrection) and Allah will ask (Noah), "Did you convey (the message of Islam)? He will reply, 'Yes O my Lord'. Then Allah will ask Noah's nation, 'Did Noah convey My message to you?' They will reply, 'No, no Prophet came to us'. Then Allah will ask Noah, 'Who will stand a witness for you?' He will reply, 'Muhammad ^(S.A.W) and his followers (will stand witness for me)'. So, I and my followers will stand as witness for him (that he conveyed Allah's message). This is the interpretation of the verse of the Holy Qur'an: "Thus, have We made of you an Ummah justly balanced, that you might be witness over the nations, and the Messenger a witness over yourselves". (Bukhari: Prophets, 555). In the above Hadith it is mentioned that, the nation of Noah forgot their Prophet and would deny identifying Noah on the day of *Qayamah*. If we analyse the Prophets and their nations at present it is found that all nations of Prophets recognised their Prophets very well. Jews knows Moses as their

Prophet, Christians know Jesus Christ and Muslims know Prophet Muhammad ^(S.A.W)³ as their Prophet. Hindus are the only nation which does not know the name of their Prophet, despite their claim that they have revealed scriptures. Therefore, we can say the Prophet of Hindus was Noah, but they forget him and would deny to identify him on the day of *Qayamah*.

3. In Hindu scriptures, Prophet Noah's name is *Manu*. In various [Hindu](#) traditions, Manu is a title accorded to the [progenitor of mankind](#), and also the very first king to rule this earth, who saved mankind from the universal flood.

[Mahabharata](#) says: "And Manu was imbued with great wisdom and devoted to virtue. In addition, he became the progenitor of a line. Moreover, in Manu's race have been born all human beings, who have therefore, been called *Manavas* (human beings). (Mahabharata Book 1: Adi Parva: Sambhava Parva: Section LXXV).

According to Islam, the whole world was damaged and all living beings died by the flood of Noah except those human beings and animals who were on boat with Noah. After the flood, new generation of human beings evolved only by Noah. Some weak sources reflect none of the companions of Noah onboard bear children except Noah. (Tariq, 1989, 137) All human beings after flood belong to the lineage of Noah. That is why Noah is entitled as *Adam-e-Thani* (second *Adam*). Due to this Noah entitled as "progenitor of Humankind" in Vedas.

4. The depiction of Prophet Noah found in almost all great scriptures of Hinduism and he discussed in them more than any other Prophet. In 75 places Prophet Noah discussed in Vedas.
5. An important evidence of Manu as the Prophet of Hindus is *Manusmriti*, a well-accepted scripture in Hindus. Manusmṛti also known as *Mānava-Dharmaśāstra*, the most important and earliest metrical work of the [Dharmaśāstra](#) textual tradition of [Hinduism](#). (Flood, 1996, 56) and (Patrick, 2005, 142) It can be translated into English as the "*Laws of Manu*". The text presents itself as a discourse given by [Manu](#), the [progenitor of humankind](#) to a group of seers, or [Rishis](#), who beseech him to tell them the "law of all the social classes".
6. A famous orientalist A.J.A. Dubois, who studied Hinduism for 40 years, stated in his work, "There is an esteemed personality among Hindus whom they call as *Mahanuvu*. He escaped from flood on a boat with seven other Rishis on board with him. *Mahanuvu* is a combination of two words; Maha+ Nuvu. Maha is for Great and Nuvu is no doubt the name of Prophet Noah". (Dubois, 1986, 132)
7. In another place Dubois writes, "To me no other religion have such a detailed account of Prophet Noah and his flood as Hindu scriptures have and in many ways it is similar to the accounts of the Old Testament. It is surprising we have received this information from a nation (Hindus) who acclaim themselves as the oldest religion on earth". (Dubois, 1986, 97-98) This means the Hindus are the first nation who knows Prophet Noah and most probably, he was their Prophet.
8. In Hinduism, the period of human civilization divided into four Yugas (eras). The present era is *Kalyug*. The *Kalyug* starts from the Flood of Prophet Noah. In Hindu scriptures, this flood is termed as *Jal Parlyawan*.
9. At last we are giving the strongest evidence. Mostly the great religions, that follow any Prophet, use the calendar, which starts from the time of their Prophets. For instance, Christians count the dates from Christian era, which starts from the death of Jesus Christ, and Muslims count their dates from *Hijrah* (Migration of Prophet Muhammad ^(S.A.W) to Madina). Likewise, *Penchang* calendar that is used by the Hindus starts from the date of the Flood of Prophet Noah. (Dubois, 1986, 416-17)

8. Prophecies of Prophet Muhammad ^(S.A.W) in Previous Scriptures

Allah prophesized in every scripture, the advent of the last messenger Prophet Muhammad ^(S.A.W). This is clearly indicated by the following verse:

³ S.A.W is the abbreviated form of *Sallahu Alaihi Wassalam* (Its meaning is peace be upon him).

وَإِذْ أَخَذَ اللَّهُ مِيثَاقَ النَّبِيِّينَ لَمَا آتَيْنَاكُمْ مِنْ كِتَابٍ وَحِكْمَةٍ ثُمَّ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مُصَدِّقٌ لِمَا مَعَكُمْ لَتُؤْمِنُنَّ بِهِ وَلَتَنْصُرُنَّهُ ۚ قَالَ أَأَقْرَضُكُمْ عَلَىٰ ذَٰلِكُمْ إِصْرِي ۚ قَالُوا أَفَرَزْنَا ۚ قَالَ فَأَشْهَدُوا ۚ وَأَنَا مَعَكُمْ مِنَ الشَّاهِدِينَ ۚ فَمَنْ تَوَلَّىٰ بَعْدَ ذَٰلِكَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ

Behold! Allah took the covenant of the Prophets saying: "I give you a Book and Wisdom; then comes to you an Apostle confirming what is with you; do ye believe him and render him help." Allah said: "Do ye agree and take this My Covenant as binding on you?" They said: "We agree." He said: "Then bear witness and I am with you among the witnesses." If any turn back after this they are perverted transgressors. Qur'an (3:81-82)

The above verse implies that all previous revealed books contain the prophecies of the advent of last and final messenger of Allah (Prophet Muhammad ^(S.A.W)). Earlier we discussed that Hindus claim, Vedas as revealed scriptures. Therefore according to above verse Vedas must contain prophecies about Prophet Muhammad ^(S.A.W). Now we are discussing some of these prophecies below.

9. Narashans versus Muhammad ^(S.A.W)

The advent of Prophet Muhammad ^(S.A.W) is prophesied in all revealed books. For example, in Old and New testaments Muhammad ^(S.A.W) are mentioned by the word 'Paraclete' which means 'highly praised one'. (Tariq, 1989, 130). Likewise, the word 'Narashans' of Vedas have the same meaning. It can be split as 'Nar' + 'Ashans'. 'Nar' means Male or Man and 'Ashans' means "The praised one". Thus the word 'Narashans' can be translated as, "The highly praised Man". Its equivalent in Arabic is "Muhammad". Muhammad in Arabic is also translated as "the highly praised one". According to Swami Dayanand Saraswati; a noted Hindu scholar, the true meaning of Narashans is "highly praised one". (Rig-Ved hindi translation, 1991, 25)

Dr. Ved Prakash Upadhyaya says, "the word Narashans cannot be attributed to any Devta or God. Because the word male clearly reflects that, it is a human being and not any super human entity. (Upadhyaya, 2005, 5)

10. Narashans in different places

Rig-Ved is the oldest Ved. In Rig-Ved shloka nos: 1/13/3, 1/18/9, 1/106/4, 2/3/2, 5/5/2, 7/2/2, 10/64/3, 10/124/2. In Samved verse no 1319 and in 27 th 28 th chapter of the Vajasaneyi Sanhit the word 'Narashans' is mentioned. According to another source, Narashans mentioned in 16 places in Rig-Ved, 10 in Yajurved, 4 in Atharvaved and 1 place in Samved.

In addition to many of his qualities, his life events, Abraham, Ka'bah, Bakkah (Makkah) and Arabia, Mahamad, Mamah, and Ahmad are mentioned. The name Mahamed appears in the Puranas, Mamah in Kuntap Sukt (in Atharva Ved), Ahmad in Samved and Narashans in Rig-Ved.

Some shlokas of Vedas in which Narashans is mentioned are as follows:

1. *O beloved Narashans! Sweet spoken, performer of sacrifices, I honour your sacrifices.* (Rig-Ved: 3/13/1).
2. *I saw Narashans in heavens, most courageous and famous like all messengers.* (Rig-Ved: 9/18/01)
3. *"O people! listen to these words with reverence. A very praise-worthy person will appear among the people. He will protect him from 60090 enemies. His means of transport would be 20 camels. His name will soar high and then return. This great Rishi will have 100 gold coins, 10 pearl necklaces, 300 Arab horses and 10,000 cows".* (Atharva Ved Kantam, 20-127, 70-1-3)

Here many characteristics of the Holy Prophet ^(S.A.W) have been mentioned. The Promised Rishi is called praiseworthy. The word Muhammad itself means 'highly praised one'. He and his companions used camels as means of transport whereas for the Rishis of India, the use of camel is forbidden. (Manusmriti, 5:8) When the Holy Prophet Muhammad ^(S.A.W), peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, appeared in Arabia, the population of the Arabs was stated as a little more than 60,000. The entire population had become his enemies. Almighty God

protected him against his enemies. The Holy Qur'an also says: "*And Allah will protect thee from men*". (Qur'an, 5:68)

Soaring high and returning refers to his journey of *Miraj* (Spiritual Ascent). The 100 gold coins refer to his companions who migrated twice to Abyssinia. The 10 pearl necklaces signify *Ashra-Mubashera*, the ten companions of the Holy Prophet ^(S.A.W), regarding whom God gave the glad tidings of Paradise in this world itself. These are Abu Bakr, Umar, Usman, Ali, Talha, Zubair, Abdur Rahman ibn Auf, Sa'ad ibn Abi Waqqas, Sa'ad ibn Zaid and Abu Ubaidah (may Allah be pleased with them). The 300 Arab horses signify the 300 companions of the Holy Prophet ^(S.A.W), who took part in the battle of Badr. They numbered 313. 10,000 cows signify the ten thousand holy people who entered Mecca triumphantly with him on his return.

4. "O people, remember that Narasans will be praised and among his six thousand ninety enemies he will migrate and spread peace. We will protect him". (Rig-Ved, 5/27/1) In this mantra it is mentioned that after migration Narashans became protected and spread peace. In Islamic history after Hijrah Prophet Muhammad ^(S.A.W) and his companions became protected and spread Islam rapidly.

In the mantra number 1/117/7 of Rig-Ved, the word Mohanmadan is mentioned. There are many mythologies to this word. To some scholars they are two brothers Mohan and Madan, some other attributed the word to Lord Krishna. But a recent research reveals an amazing result. To it mostly in Sanskrit "AN" is extra in the end of words. At first we split the word as Mohan+Madan. Remove "AN" from the end of the both words and combine the rest portions. Then the word came out as Moh+Mad= Mohmad. It is hidden name of Prophet Muhammad ^(S.A.W) in Rig-Ved. (Tariq, 1989, 172).

10.1 Similarities between Narashans and Muhammad ^(S.A.W)

1. Sweetness of Speech: In a verse in Rig-Ved, it is discussed about the Narashans's sweetness of Speech. The verse is: *He (Narashans) will be sweet spoken*. (Rig-Ved, 1/13/3) In this verse *Madhujihan* means sweet spoken. The word can be split into two words Madhu+ Jihan. *Madhu* means sugar or sweet and *Jihan* means talk or speech. Everyone knows that Muhammad ^(S.A.W) was sweet spoken and kind hearted.
2. Enlighten every house: In Rig-Ved it is said that, *he will enlighten every house*. (Rig-Ved, 2/3/2) It is clear that Hazrat Muhammad ^(S.A.W) lit the flame of knowledge in every house and eradicated ignorance and people wandering in darkness were given a new light. There is Hadith in which Prophet Muhammad ^(S.A.W) said to his daughter that: O my daughter don't worry the message your father bring will one day enter in every frail and strong house. (Kanzul Ummal, Vol.1, p.77). See also, (Al-Haisami, Vol-8, 263)
11. Indirect knowledge bearer: In a verse in Rig-Ved it is said, *The Narashans will be indirect knowledge bearer*. (Rig-Ved, 5/5/2) We know that Muhammad ^(S.A.W) received knowledge from Wahi. Qur'an states that *Muhammad ^(S.A.W) do not speak by his will but after receiving Wahi*. (Qur'an 53:3-4)
12. Destroyer of sins: In a mantra of Rig-Ved, *Narashans will destroy sins of the society*. (Rig-Ved, 1/106/4) In this mantra Narashans identified as destroyer of sins. Every one knows that Muhammad ^(S.A.W) prohibited sins severely, like alcohol, drugs, gambling, interest, abuse and burial of daughters alive.
13. Location of Narashans: In the above Kuntapa sukt of Atharvaved camel is mentioned as used by the Narashans for riding. It testifies the location of his arrival. Camel ride means that the birthplace of Narashans has plenty of camels. Hazrat Muhammad ^(S.A.W) was born in the Arabian Desert region which has a lot of camels.

10.2 In Puranas

Puranas are most sacred scriptures of Hinduism next to Vedas. Though it is not claimed that they were word of God. However most probably they were the interpretations of Vedas. In famous

Bhavishya Puran it is said, "A malechha⁴ spiritual teacher will appear with his companions. His name will be Mahamed. Raja Bhoj after giving this Mahadev Arab (of angelic disposition) a bath in the 'Panchgavya' and the Ganges water, (i.e. purging him of all sins) offered him the presents of his sincere devotion and showing him all reverence said, 'I make obeisance to thee.' 'O Ye! the pride of mankind, the dweller in Arabia, Ye have collected a great force to kill the Devil and you yourself have been protected from the malechha opponents (idol worshipers, pagans).' 'O Ye! the image of the Most Pious God the biggest Lord, I am a slave to thee, take me as one lying on thy feet'. (Bhavishya Purana, Prati Sarag Parv III, 3:3:5-8)

In this Prophecy many facts about Muhammad^(S.A.W) are mentioned. Such as:

1. The name of that Acharya (religious leader) will be Mahamed (Muhammad^(S.A.W)).
2. He will belong to Marusthal (desert, Arabia).
3. He will have Companions (Sahaba).
4. *King Dev after giving this Mahadeva Arab a bath in the 'Panchgavya' and the Ganges water.* By Ganges water means sacred water. It was the famous miracle of Muhammad^(S.A.W) that he was given bath by angels during his childhood. This incident is termed as Shaq-i-Sadar in Islamic history.

Raja Bhoj refers to [Hindu King Chakrawati Farnas](#) who converted to Islam after observing the Shaqqul-Qamar (dividing apart of Moon) miracle of Prophet Muhammad^(S.A.W). "There is a very old tradition in Malabar, South-West Coast of India, that Chakrawati Farnas, one of their kings, had observed the splitting of the moon, the celebrated miracle of the Holy Prophet^(S.A.W) at Mecca, and learning on inquiry that there was a prediction of the coming of a Messenger of God from Arabia, he appointed his son as regent and set out to meet him. He embraced Islam at the hand of the Prophet^(S.A.W), and when returning home, at the direction of the Prophet^(S.A.W), died at the port of Zafar, Yemen, where the tomb of the "Indian king" was piously visited for many centuries". (Zahoor A, Chakrawati Farnas King of Malabar India)

Another prophecy of Bhavishya Puran is clearer, "The Malechhas have spoiled the well-known land of the Arabs. Arya Dharma is not to be found in that country. Earlier also there appeared a misguided fiend whom I had killed [note: e.g., Abraha Al-Ashram, the Abyssinian viceroy of Yemen, who attacked Mecca]; he has now again appeared being sent by a powerful enemy. To show these enemies the right path and to give them guidance the well-known Mahamad (Mohammad), whom I have given the epithet of Brahma is busy in bringing the Pishachas to the right path. O Raja! You need not go to the land of the foolish Pishachas, you will be purified through my kindness even where you are. At night, he of the angelic disposition, the shrewd man, in the guise of a Pishacha said to Raja Bhoj, "O Raja! Your Arya Dharma has been made to prevail over all religions, but according to the commandments of 'Ashwar Parmatma (God, Supreme Spirit), I shall enforce the strong creed of the meat-eaters. My follower will be a man circumcised, without a tail (on his head), keeping beard, creating a revolution, announcing call for prayer and will be eating all lawful things. He will eat all sorts of animals except swine. They will not seek purification from the holy shrubs, but will be purified through warfare. Because of their fighting the irreligious nations, they will be known as Musalay (Muslims). I shall be the originator of this religion of the meat-eating nation". (Bhavishya Puran, Pratisarg Parv III, 3: 3: 10-27)

Similarly, in Sangram Puran it is prophesied, "Tulsidas said, without any bias I am saying here the notions of Vedas, Puranas and true saints. In the seventh vikrame century he will be born with four suns. With love and force he will turn down every one. He will have four devtas (four early

⁴ The word *Malechha* that appears in the first part of verse 5 is in order. The word Malechha means a man belonging to a foreign country and speaking foreign language. This word is now used to degrade people meaning unclean or even worse. Its usage varies and depends on who is using it and for whom. Sir William Jones had great difficulty in recruiting a Pundit to teach him Sanskrit because he was considered unclean (Malechha). It was only after the direct intervention of Maharaja (King) Shiv Chandra that Pundit Ram Lochna agreed to teach him Sanskrit.

<http://www.cyberistan.org/islamic/prophhs.html>

caliphs). With the help of these for devtas his followers will increase rapidly. Till the beautiful words (Qur'an) remain on earth, no one can achieve prosperity with following Mahamed (Muhammad^(S.A.W)). Then no one will bear like him (he will be the last Prophet^(S.A.W)). His (Tulsidas) statement will prove one day". (Sangram Purana, Iskand 12, kand 6)

10.3 In Upnishads

In Upnishads also the advent of Prophet Muhammad^(S.A.W) is clearly mentioned. In a place it is said, "The name of Lord is Allah. He is friendly and almighty. He is the creator of the whole Universe. O friends! Consider Allah as your lord. He is friendly and helps everyone as friend. He is most superior. He is greatest, best, almighty and most pious. Muhammad^(S.A.W) is the utmost messenger of Allah. Allah is the sustainer of the whole Universe. All pious works are attributed to Him. In fact, He is the creator of Sun, Moon and Stars". (Allo Upnishad: 1, 2, 3)

Similarly in another place in Allo Upnishad (enlisted as 15th out of 220 Upnishads) it is said that Allah is creator of the Universe and Muhammad^(S.A.W) is His messenger.

11. Kalki Autar and Prophet Muhammad^(S.A.W)

Kalki Autar is a spiritual leader of covenant promised in Vedas. He is awaited by Hindus and many of his identities were mentioned in Vedas. However all of his identities collectively were found in the personality of Prophet Muhammad^(S.A.W). Many of great Hindu scholars realized and testified it. Among them, a well-known scholar Pundit Vaid Parkash Upadhyay is a fair-minded Hindu and famous scholar. He comprehensively proved that *Kalik Autar* is not any other but Prophet Muhammad^(S.A.W). (Upadhyay, www.themodernreligion.com)

Eight great *Pundits* (Hindu clerics) who are themselves well known in the field of research in India and are amongst the learned religious leaders, after thorough study of the book, have acknowledged that it is true and authentic research work.

As an argument to prove the authenticity of his research, Pundit Vaid Parkash quotes from the Vedas. Some of his arguments are quoted below:

1. Vedas mention that '*kalki autar*' will be the last Messenger/ Prophet of *Bhagwan* (Allah) to guide the whole world. After quoting this reference the Pundit Parkash says that this comes true only in the case of Prophet Muhammad^(S.A.W).
2. According to a prophecy of Hinduism, '*kalki autar*' will be born in an island and that is the Arab territory which is known as '*Jazeeratul Arab*'.
3. In the 'sacred' book of Hindus the father's name of '*kalki autar*' is mentioned as '*Vishnu Bhagat*' and his mother's name as '*sumaani*'. In sanskrit, 'vishnu' stands for Allah and the literal meaning of '*bhagat*' is slave. '*Vishnu Bhagat*' therefore, in the Arabic language will mean Allah's slave (Abdullah). '*Sumaani*' in Sanskrit means peace and tranquility, which in Arabic is denoted by the word '*Amina*'. Whereas the last Messenger Prophet Muhammad's^(S.A.W) father and mother's names were Abdullah and Amina respectively.
4. In the big books of Hindus, it is mentioned that '*kalki autar*' will live on olive and dates and he will be true to his words and honest. In this regard Pundit Parkash writes, "This is true and established only in the case of Muhammad^(S.A.W)".
5. Ved mentions that '*kalki autar*' will be born in the respected and noble dynasty of his land. And this is also true as regards Prophet Muhammad^(S.A.W) as he was born in the respected tribe of Quraish who enjoyed great respect and high place in Makkah.
6. '*Kalki Autar*' will be taught in the cave by Bhagwan (God) through his own messenger. And it is very true in this matter. Prophet Muhammad^(S.A.W) was the only person in Makkah who was taught by Allah's Messenger Gabriel in the cave of Hira.
7. It is written in the books which Hindus believe that Bhagwan will provide '*Kalki autar*' with the fastest of a horse and with the help of which he will ride around the world and the seven skies/heavens. The riding on '*Buraq*' during '*Meraj*' by the Prophet Muhammad^(S.A.W) proves it.

8. It is also written in the Hindus' books that '*kalki autar*' will be strengthened and heavily helped by *Bhagwan*. And we know this fact that Muhammad^(S.A.W) was aided and reinforced by Allah through His angels in the battle of Badr.
9. Hindu books also mention that '*kalki autar*' will be an expert in horse riding, arrow shooting, and swordsmanship. What Pundit Vaid Parkash comments in this regard is very important and worthy of attention and consideration. He writes that the age of horses, swords, and spears is long ago gone and now is the age of modern weapons like tanks, missiles, and guns, and therefore it will be unwise to wait for '*kalki autar*' bearing sword and arrows or spears. In reality, the mention in our books of '*kalki autar*' is clearly indicative of Muhammad^(S.A.W) who was given the heavenly book known as Al-Qur'an. *Kalki Autar* had already come 1450 years ago in Arabia. He was Muhammad^(S.A.W).

12. Similarities between Hinduism and Islam

1. Hindu temples are mostly constructed in a manner that the entrance faces east, so when a worshiper enters a temple the direction of his face is towards the west. It should be noted, the direction of *Qibla* in India is towards west. Therefore Muslims also face west while performing *Salat*. Another interesting point to note is that, when Hindus return after worship they do not turn their body, but they way back on foot without turning their faces from west.
2. When Hindus laid down corpse for funeral, they lay the corpse in a manner that the head stayed towards North and foot to south just as Muslims do.
3. In marriage, the couple takes seven rounds around fire, while Muslims take seven rounds around *Kaba* in a *Tawaf*.
4. Hindus wear two unstitched clothes on pilgrimage, while Muslims wear *Ahram*, which consists of two unstitched clothes on pilgrimage to Haj.
5. Hindus shave their heads after pilgrimage, while Muslims do the same after *Haj* and *Umrah*.
6. Hindus do not wear usual shoes in pilgrimage, only *Khadawn* or *Padukas*⁵ are permissible, similarly Muslims do not wear usual shoes only *chappals* (an Indian term for sleeper footwear) are permissible. It should be noted that the shapes of *Padukas* and *chappals* are similar with a slight change.
7. When Hindus return from pilgrimage they bring *Gangajal* (water of river Ganges) and Muslims bring *Zam-Zam* water on return.
8. On a child's birth Hindus choose child's name on seventh day and shave his head this ritual is termed as *Naamkaran Sanskar* and Muslims also choose child's name on seventh day and shave his head in *Aqiqah* ceremony.
9. *Ayodhya*: It is the name of a famous disputed Holy place in India. Former Babri Mosque is situated here and it is known as the birthplace of Rama. The word *Ayodhya* can be split as A+ Youdh. A means No and *Youdh* means War. So, the word *Ayodhya* can be translated as, a place where war or fighting prohibited or 'no war zone'. Its corresponding word in Qur'an is *Masjidil-Haram* or *Masha'ril-Haram*.
10. *Shantiniketan*: The word *Shantiniketan* is a popular word found in many Hindu scriptures and used in India. It can be split as *Shanti*+ *Niketan*. *Shanti* is for peace and *Niketan* is for house or home. So, *Shantiniketan* is House of peace. Its corresponding word in the Qur'an is *Darussalam*. It is used for *Jannah* in Qur'an.

13. Similar verses of Hindu scriptures and Qur'an

S. No.	Hindu scriptures	Qur'an
1	" <i>Ekam evadvitiyam</i> " "He is One only without a second". (Chandogya Upanishad, 6:2:1)	قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ Say: He is Allah, the one and Only. (Qur'an, 112: 1)

⁵ *Paduka* is Hindu traditional footwear, has a wooden sole and a knob that fits between the big toe and the second toe- An Indian term used for sleeper footwear.

2	<p>"<i>Ma cid anyad vi sansata sakhayo ma rishanyata</i>".</p> <p>"O friends, do not worship anybody but Him, the Divine One. Praise Him alone." (Rig-Ved 8:1:1)</p>	<p>وَلَا تُشْرِكْ بِعِبَادَةِ رَبِّهِ أَحَدًا</p> <p>And in the worship of his Lord, admit no one as partner. (Qur'an, 16:110)</p>
3	<p>"<i>Devasya samituk parishtutih</i>"</p> <p>"Verily, great is the glory of the Divine Creator." (Rig-Ved 5:1:81)</p>	<p>الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ</p> <p>Praise be to Allah, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the worlds. (Qur'an, 1:2)</p>
4	<p>"<i>Na casya kascij janita na cadhipah</i>".</p> <p>"Of Him there are neither parents nor lord." (Svetasvatara Upanishad, 6:9)</p>	<p>لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ</p> <p>He begetteth not, nor is He begotten or He has neither father nor son. (Qur'an, 112:3)</p>
5	<p>"<i>Na tasya pratima asti</i>"</p> <p>"There is no likeness of Him." (Yajurved, 32:3) and (Svetasvatara Upanishad, 4:19)</p>	<p>لَيْسَ كَمِثْلِهِ شَيْءٌ</p> <p>there is nothing whatever like unto Him (Qur'an, 42:11)</p>
6	<p>"<i>Na samdrse tisthati rupam asya, na caksusa pasyati kas canainam</i>".</p> <p>"His form is not to be seen; no one sees Him with the eye." (Svetasvatara Upanishad, 4:20)</p>	<p>لَا تَدْرِكُهُ الْبَصَارُ</p> <p>No vision can grasp Him (Qur'an, 6:103)</p>
7	<p>Those whose intelligence has been stolen by material desires surrender unto demigods and follow the particular rules and regulations of worship according to their own natures." (Bhagavad Gita, 7:20)</p>	<p>قُلْ إِنْ هَدَى اللَّهُ هُوَ الْهُدَى ۖ وَلَئِنْ اتَّبَعْتَ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ بَعْدَ الَّذِي جَاءَكَ مِنَ الْعِلْمِ ۖ مَا لَكَ مِنَ اللَّهِ مِنْ وَلِيٍّ وَلَا نَصِيرٍ</p> <p>Say: "The Guidance of Allah,-that is the (only) Guidance." Wert thou to follow their desires after the knowledge which hath reached thee, then wouldst thou find neither Protector nor helper against Allah. (Qur'an, 2:120)</p>
8	<p>"<i>Andhatama pravishanti ye asambhuti mupaste</i>".</p> <p>"They enter darkness, those who worship the natural elements" (Air, Water, Fire, etc.). "They sink deeper in darkness, those who worship sambhuti(man made things; image, statue, idols etc.)." (Yajurved, 40:9)</p>	<p>وَمَنْ يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ ضَلَالًا بَعِيدًا</p> <p>One who joins other gods with Allah, Hath strayed far, far away (from the right). (Qur'an, 4:116)</p>
9	<p>"Sages (learned Priests) call one God by many names". (Rig-Ved, 1:164:46)</p>	<p>قُلْ ادْعُوا اللَّهَ أَوْ ادْعُوا الرَّحْمَنَ ۖ أَيًّا مَا تَدْعُوا فَلَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ</p> <p>Say: "Call upon Allah, or call upon Rahman: by whatever name ye call upon Him, (it is well): for to Him belong the Most Beautiful names. (Qur'an, 17:110)</p>
10	<p>The Brahma Sutra of Hinduism is: "<i>Ekam Brahm, dvitiya naste neh na naste kinchan</i>"</p> <p>"There is only one God, not the second; not at all, not at all, not in the least bit."</p>	<p>La Ilaha il Allahu wahdahu la sharika laho</p> <p>There is no God but Allah, He is alone, and no one shares His autonomy.</p>

14. Ankeni

“*La ila harni papan, Illa lamba param padam*

Janam bekanth par ab hoti tu, jape naam Muhammadam^{sawh} (Tariq, 1989, 182).

Translation: After saying, ‘*La Ilah*’ sins destroyed. Saying ‘*Il Allah*’ uplifts the status of man. If you want *Jannah* forever, recite the name of Muhammad^(S.A.W).

For centuries it is a custom in Hindus that this above mantra advises to recite to a man on his deathbed for easy death, if he feels a lot of pain and difficulty in his last moments. For a long time this mantra remained hidden from common people, only Brahmins know this mantra and have authority to advise it. Finally, it was disclosed by a *purohit* to Mughal emperor Akbar.

The above mantra nearly has same text as *Kalima shahadah*;

La ilaha il Allah Muhammadur Rasool Allah (There is no God but Allah, Muhammad^(S.A.W) is His messenger)

There is a tradition among Muslims also, they advise the above *Kalima* to dying man in his last moments, because it is believed that if a man be he a Muslim or not recites this *Kalima* in his death, then his sins vanished away and he gets protected from hell and *Inshallah* entered *Jannah* after death.

Conclusion

Hinduism has the largest number of Idols to worship. It is a common phrase in India, there are about 3.3 million idols worshiped in Hinduism. However, Vedas which are the most sacred and oldest scriptures, strictly prohibit idol worship. The teachings of Vedas are based on *Twaheed* (omnipotence) and excellent morals. However, there are some un-Islamic ideas found in Vedas because these scriptures also polluted like other revealed scriptures. For thousands of years Vedas transmitted orally and finally a German scholar, Max Muller compiled them in written form in 1874. Therefore, their pollution is not unexpected. But a comparative study of Qur’an and Vedas reveals that the essence of both scriptures is same. Though it cannot be acclaimed that the whole text of Vedas is the ‘Word of God’, but the portion which matches the teachings of Qur’an could be the ‘Word of God’. Therefore, it may rightly be concluded that the Vedas may be the first and Qur’an is the last edition of the ‘Word of God’.

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